



Food Safety Certification Training For Farmers

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Rural Action and the Chesterhill Produce Auction will be hosting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification Training with Hal Kneen of the OSU Extension Fruit & Vegetable Food Safety Team. The training will take place Thursday, April 11th from 1-4 pm at the Marion Community Center located at 7474 College Street in Chesterhill, Ohio 43728.

This training is open to growers and other fresh produce handlers. This is a great training for all growers interested in selling direct to the public, or to supermarkets and restaurants, as well as for all those committed to food safety. This training meets the educational requirements of the Ohio Produce Marketing Agreement, and other food safety certification programs. This will be a non-electronic training featuring flip charts a lecture, and a question and answer format. Refreshments will be provided.

During this training participants will learn about:

- the costs and impact of diseases and outbreaks caused by foodborne pathogens
- strategies for controlling potential microbial food safety hazards before planting and throughout all phases of production planting, production, harvesting and post-harvest handling
- the USDA Third Party Audit process

Participants will also receive Farm Safety Handouts which will make it easy to keep track of good agricultural practices. There will be a \$10 fee for the Certification Training at the door which goes towards the OSU Food Safety Team costs.

For further information contact Tom Redfern, Rural Action Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, at (740) 767- 4938, or tomr@ruralaction.org. Rural Action is a membership based organization promoting economic, social, and environmental justice in Appalachian Ohio.